

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) An installation for desalinating or purifying saline or otherwise polluted input water, said installation comprising:

a desalination fractionation installation having a hydrate formation region disposed at a lower portion of said installation and a hydrate dissociation region disposed at an upper portion of said installation;

a mixing chamber;

an input water conduit which is arranged to provide input water to said mixing chamber and to said hydrate formation region;

a gas supply conduit which is arranged to provide hydrate forming gas to said mixing chamber and to said hydrate formation region; and

wherein hydrate forming gas is dissolved into at least a portion of the input water in said mixing chamber prior to being input into said hydrate formation region.

14. (Original) The installation as set forth in claim 13, wherein said input water conduit which is arranged to provide input water to said mixing chamber and to said hydrate formation region constitutes a first input water conduit arranged to provide input water to said mixing chamber and a second input water conduit arranged to provide input water to said hydrate formation region.

15. (Original) The installation as set forth in claim 13, wherein said gas supply conduit which is arranged to provide hydrate forming gas to said mixing chamber and to said hydrate formation region constitutes a first gas supply conduit arranged to provide hydrate forming gas

MAX -- Divisional of 09/941,545
Client/Matter: 018984-0306262

to said mixing chamber and a second gas supply conduit arranged to provide hydrate forming gas to said hydrate formation region.